

ESTABLISHED IN 1861

# THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

OLDEST BEE PAPER IN AMERICA

GEORGE W. YORK,  
Editor.

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY—  
TO BEE-CULTURE.

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Sample Free.

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NO. 27.



**Do You Want to be a hero?**  
Let us tell you how to do it:  
Your subscriptions's just expired?  
Then step up and please renew it.

**A Happy New Year** to every reader of the old AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, is our most earnest wish, as the year 1892 ends and 1893 begins. If you want to return this "wish" in a very appropriate manner, just send \$1.00 to us for the renewal of your subscription, and we will promise to be "real happy." The majority of the BEE JOURNAL subscriptions expire with this number, so that in renewing immediately you will be commencing the *new year* in a very commendable way. Don't put it off, but just as soon as you have read this, send us at least that one dollar's worth of "happiness," which we will return to you in 52 equal installments during the year 1893, and thus make you "happy" 52 times to our once. We repeat—we wish you

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

**Don't Fail** to read all of page 845.

**A Complete Index** will be found in this number. It shows in a very compact form just what has been done during the past six months. It is a record to be proud of, and those who helped to make it are worthy of all honor and praise.

Bee-literature is "marching on," and its future is resplendent with glorious promise, which, in its fulfillment, will add still greater lustre to the already well-merited fame of modern apiarian periodicals. As in the practical work of the apiary, there has been wonderful advancement during the past few years, so in the literature of bee-keeping great and enduring progress has been made. Having learned well the lessons of the Past, we should be the better prepared to discharge the duties of the Present, while entertaining bright hopes for the Future.

**Fifty-Three Numbers** of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL have been issued this year, so those who have been fortunate enough to have been subscribers during the year 1892, have had one number more than is usually given in one year. No extra charge is made for this, the 53rd number, only we hope it may be appreciated, as we were not in duty bound to publish more than 52 numbers. We are glad, however, to be able to keep up the weekly visits of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, and, as we have done this year, throw in an extra number besides.

**One of the Very Oldest.—**

When renewing his subscription to the BEE JOURNAL for about the 30th time, Mr. J. L. Hubbard, of Walpole, N. H., writes as follows, dated Dec. 16, 1892:

I have taken the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL from No. 1, Volume I, until now, and still find it as interesting as ever. Probably you have but few who have taken it so long. J. L. HUBBARD.

We should like to know just who among our present subscribers have taken the BEE JOURNAL continuously since its first issue, in 1861. We will publish the honorable list of names, if all those who have taken the BEE JOURNAL ever since it was started, will let us know when renewing their subscriptions, as did Mr. Hubbard. Let us hear from all such before Feb. 1, 1893. Then we will print the list.

**Our Chinese Contributor—**

Wong Lung—of California, has his first article on page 858 of this issue. His experience is quite interesting, and he has fairly good control of our English language. If all who read it should happen to "smile a few smoles" when reading, we feel sure Mr. Wong Lung will not feel offended. We think it almost as good as the "tonics" we have seen advertised for the benefit of one's health. Nothing is better than a hearty good laugh, you know.

**Volume XXX** of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL is completed with this number. The record is made, and with the next issue we begin a new volume and a new year. We hope that the good company we have been in during the past year, may all continue with us. Having set our faces toward the apicultural goal, let us not turn back, but press onward until we have attained the desired end, and blessed commendation, "Well done."

**Have You Read** page 845 yet?

**The Queries and Replies**

Department of the BEE JOURNAL was begun in the first number for the year 1885. During the eight years of its existence there have been answered 851 questions, by some 20 of the most expert bee-keepers in America. What a vast fund of information is to be found in those nearly 20,000 answers! This department alone is worth more than the yearly subscription price of the BEE JOURNAL.

Beginning with the second number for January, 1893, we will have replies given by at least 25 practical bee-keepers, and during the year we hope to be able to present a short biographical sketch, with portrait, of each one of those who so kindly and wisely contribute so much to the value of the BEE JOURNAL.

The great success and usefulness of the "Queries and Replies" department was assured from the very first, and all along the years it has been quite a feature of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. The thanks of thousands of readers are due to those who have so faithfully endeavored to answer the many hard questions propounded.

**Mr. J. H. Larrabee**, for the past year or so connected with the Michigan Agricultural College, has returned to Larrabee's Point, Vt., where he again will make the production of honey his business. While at the College, he made many interesting and useful experiments of much value to the pursuit of bee-keeping. We enjoyed a very pleasant visit from Bro. Larrabee during the Illinois State Convention in October, and simply "fell in love" with him, as we did with others who were present, and whom we had not met before.

We wish Bro. Larrabee all the success he may anticipate in the ranks of honey-producers. Our readers may expect to hear from him during the coming year, if all is well.

**Producing Sugar-Honey.**

This subject has been discussed in both the *Review* and *Gleanings*, until the latter, at least, has wisely said, "no more discussion is cared for at present." We have persistently refused to permit a discussion of the subject in the columns of the *AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL*, believing that it was unnecessary, unwise, and entirely uncalled for. All who have written to us, or with whom we have conversed on the subject, have commended us very strongly upon our position, except, we may say, Prof. Cook and Bro. Hutchinson.

We still believe that we have taken the very wisest course in regard to the matter, excepting that it now seems that some of our readers think that by our silence we favor the production of "sugar-honey," as its defenders are pleased to call it. Nothing could be further from the truth, for the *AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL* is "agin" it first, last, and all the time, and believes that the less said about the subject the better. That is our position, no matter whether the production of such an article would be profitable or not.

The following conversational letter from one of the brightest and best lights in bee-keeping we offer as an excuse for referring to the subject at all in these columns. Omitting the name of the writer only, it reads as follows:

**FRIEND YORK:**—I have noticed you have said nothing *pro* or *con* regarding the sugar-honey discussion going on in the other bee-papers, and that is the very reason I mention it. I have been requested to give my views on the subject, and this is the way it came about:

Mr. G., of this place, who is about 60 years old, and a great bee-keeper, came in with *Gleanings* in one hand, and the *Review* in the other, and said:

"Say, look here, are we to believe, by the silence of the *AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL*, that Messrs. York, Newman, you, and the rest of the big family of the *AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL* are in favor of that sugar-honey swindle?"

"Oh, no, Mr. G., oh, no," I replied.

"Well, it looks very much like it, as I have always been taught that to be

silent was to give consent; and I have followed the *BEE JOURNAL* all along the line of adulteration, and have endorsed its views on that subject from the beginning, and I have always thought that it was the most solid for the right, and the most ready to storm out like a peal of thunder against wrong, of any I ever saw. And we have always looked upon the *AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL* as the leading bee-paper of the world, always ready to defend the bee-keeping interest, and ready to discuss leading topics. Now, if this sugar-honey business is not a leading topic, and leading bee-keepers to destruction as fast as the Mississippi river is leading its waters to the sea, then I am fooled. And here you all sit, with the most influential means in your grasp—the *AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL* asleep. Wake up, and fight this old serpent, just as if you weren't afraid of Hutchinson, Hasty, Cook, or any one else, and live without fear or favor from any one."

"Well, Mr. G., you see I would rather not say one word about it, at present anyway, as I would rather let those that started the fight end it. Why don't you sit down and write to the *BEE JOURNAL* all about it?"

"Ah, you know I can't write anything—couldn't say what I wanted to say if I tried. Now, you say a little something about it, and may be you will start the ball to rolling," he answered.

The above is not all the conversation, but it is enough, I hope. Mr. G. is what people call a pretty long-headed old gentleman, if I am allowed such an expression, and he rather stirred me up a little, anyway. I am glad to see you have vetoed the discussion.

My own opinion is as follows: From a long experience in feeding bees, I have learned that, by feeding sugar syrup, or anything else to the bees, does not in the least change it. You may feed a colony of bees a barrel of sugar syrup, and it is no more honey *after* than *before* feeding. Of course, when the syrup is stored in the combs, and used as comb honey, the beeswax flavor goes along with it, which may make it taste a little like honey, but, even then I should think it would be a very poor bee-keeper, indeed, that could not readily detect it. I think the cow will have to jump over the moon before I will believe that the bees have the power to convert sugar syrup into anything that even resembles honey, to me.

I will add, that I believe that those who are using the press to argue this question, are doing wrong, and walking

on dangerous ground; and any one that advocates such a course before the public, surely must have a disregard for the best interests of the bee-keeping fraternity.

Here is what Mr. Newman has to say on the subject:

FRIEND YORK:—While I know you have decided to keep the discussion about that swindle, so-called "sugar-honey," out of the BEE JOURNAL, I must ask you to let me define my position. My friends, who know that I have always fought with all my might, such frauds, want to know now where I stand. One of my last editorials was devoted to this matter, and may be found on page 247 of the BEE JOURNAL for Feb. 18, 1892. I have not changed my views on it since then, when I said: "To put it into practice, would be to kill the industry, and hold its advocates up to view as a set of base swindlers."

THOS. G. NEWMAN.

Chicago, Ills., Dec. 23, 1892.

After reading the foregoing, though perhaps a little more emphatic than we would wish to put the case, in the main it expresses our views on the subject. All will now know why we have not permitted its discussion. While we do most sincerely respect both Prof. Cook and Mr. Hutchinson, and believe that they are great powers in the bee-keeping world, yet we must say that we think it was very unwise to discuss the subject at all.

With the hope that the unfortunate affair may soon be forgotten, and result in no harm to the pursuit, we turn from this questionable subject to others less dangerous and more promising of good to bee-keeping.

**The Programme** of the Vermont State convention was received, but not in time for publication in last week's BEE JOURNAL. Of course it would be useless to put it in this number, as the convention will be in session before we mail this issue. It is, however, a very interesting list of topics, and the report will be looked forward to with much eagerness by all.

#### **Paddock Pure Food Bill.**—

Prof. Cook writes us as follows on Senator Paddock's Bill now before Congress:

I say *Amen* to Mr. S. H. Mallory's article on page 796. If the Paddock Bill is enough, then let us urge its passage with all our might. Mr. Editor, why not you examine it, and if good, send a page in the next AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for each of us to copy, as a petition to Congress to have it passed? Let us act at once.

A. J. Cook.

We are now in correspondence with Senator Paddock, and as soon as we have anything definite to offer we will give it to our readers. From what we have so far investigated, we think that Bill will cover what bee-keepers need to help them annihilate adulterators and their criminal work.

**The Officers for 1893**, of the Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Association, elected at the Lansing meeting on Dec. 15th, are as follows:

President, Hon. R. L. Taylor, of Lapeer; Vice-President, J. A. Pearce, of Grand Rapids; Secretary, W. Z. Hutchinson, of Flint; and Treasurer, M. H. Hunt, of Bell Branch.

Prof. Cook reports that they had a "fine meeting;" and Bro. Hutchinson says it "was not very largely attended, but mostly by prominent men, and there was some very interesting discussion."

We expect soon to publish the report.

#### **Portraits of Bee-Keepers.**—

Beginning with Jan. 1, 1893, we are arranging to publish a biographical sketch with portrait, of some prominent bee-keeper, in every issue of the BEE JOURNAL for the ensuing year. This will make it a veritable historical album, besides containing everything of interest relating to the pursuit of bee-keeping. The old AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for 1893 promises to be more attractive and valuable than ever. Send us your subscription now, so that you may be sure to have the very first number of the new year.



**The Ladies' Home Journal**, of Philadelphia, Pa., is perhaps the finest monthly home magazine in the world. If ordered before Dec. 30th, 1892, we can club it with the **BEE JOURNAL**—both Journals for one year—for \$1.60, to either old or new subscribers. If you are a new subscriber to both JOURNALS, you will receive ours the rest of this year free; and the "Ladies' Home Journal" will begin with the January number.

**The Ohio State Bee-Keepers' Convention** was held on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, as at first announced. We state this, because the notice that it would not be changed from Dec. 27th and 28th to Jan. 2nd and 3rd was received too late for insertion last week's **BEE JOURNAL**.

**The Eighth Annual Report** of the National Bee-Keepers' Union is now issued, and sent to all the members. Next week we expect to publish a part of it for the benefit of our readers who are not already members of the Union.

### CONVENTION DIRECTORY.

#### Time and place of meeting.

1893.  
Jan. 10-12.—Ontario, at Walkerton, Ont.  
W. Couse, Sec., Streetsville, Ont.  
Jan. 13, 14.—S.W. Wisconsin, at Boscobel, Wis.  
Edwin Pike, Pres., Boscobel, Wis.  
Jan. 12-14.—Minnesota, at Minneapolis, Minn.  
A. K. Cooper, Sec., Winona, Minn.  
Jan. 16, 17.—Colorado, at Denver, Colo.  
H. Knight, Sec., Littleton, Colo.  
Jan. 18, 19.—Indiana, at Indianapolis, Ind.  
G. P. Wilson, Sec., Tolgate, Ind.

In order to have this table complete, Secretaries are requested to forward full particulars of the time and the place of each future meeting.—THE EDITOR.

**North American Bee-Keepers' Association**  
PRESIDENT—Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa.  
SECRETARY—W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich.

#### National Bee-Keepers' Union.

PRESIDENT—James Heddon, Dowagiac, Mich.  
SEC'Y AND MANAGER—T. G. Newman, Chicago.



CONDUCTED BY

**Mrs. Jennie Atchley,**

GREENVILLE, TEXAS.

### More About Introducing Queens.

In my directions for introducing queens to colonies that were hard to get to accept a queen, Henry Alley wishes to know who would take all the trouble to introduce a queen the way I directed. As he wishes me to reply, I will say that it seems to me that he ought to have learned in 30 years, the "nater" of bees. Doesn't he know that to shake or cluster bees, and mix them up and take away their brood, they will take one or more queens, the same as they will when they swarm, and two or more swarms unite. Queens and all will live peaceably together until they are hived, and they go to house-keeping.

Well, if he wishes to take all this pains to introduce, why, it is safe to shake them all out on the ground a time or two, and let them run into the hive together, on combs of honey, or an empty hive, for doesn't he know that bees will fight a queen, workers, or anything else when they have brood to protect? He certainly ought to have learned this. If not, try and see.

Then when the queen is accepted, give them brood. I do not have to do this often, but when I undertake to introduce a queen I introduce her, that's all.

This was given in this department of the **BEE JOURNAL**, page 365. I only meant to do this way when it was necessary. I don't lose queens in introducing. I have just successfully introduced over 50, all at the same time, without the loss of one, and it has been years since I lost one by introducing. But to successfully do so, we must carefully study the nature of the creature.

**Great Premium on page 845!**

**Bee-Keeping in South Mississippi.**

Four years ago I commenced bee-keeping with 2 colonies. I have increased my stock, with some losses, to 25 colonies in good condition for winter. This has been a poor year, in this locality, for bees. The spring had too much rain, and it was too dry in the summer and fall.

Bee-keeping has a perfect fascination for me, and if I never realized any profit from it, more than furnishing my own table with the luxury, it is enough; however, I expect to market some another year. I have taken as much as 100 pounds of nice comb honey from one colony. I am using Langstroth hives, and think them the best. I have read a great deal on bee-culture, and am taking the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. I learn something new every day. I have not tried bee-stings for rheumatism yet, but will take Dr. Gress' advice as given on page 729, in regard to that.

JOHN W. KNOX.

Zion Hill, Miss., Dec. 8, 1892.

**When Brood-Rearing Shall Begin in the Spring.**

**Query 851.**—How early in the spring do you prefer to have the bees begin rearing brood?—Pa.

April 1st.—R. L. TAYLOR.

In February.—A. B. MASON.

With apple bloom, or earlier.—W. M. BARNUM.

When the natural pollen is existent.—A. J. COOK.

As soon as they come out of the cellar. C. C. MILLER.

I like to see brood coming on by the first of March.—E. FRANCE.

It is best to leave that matter entirely to the bees.—C. H. DIBBERN.

In this latitude, the last of February or first of March.—J. M. HAMBAUGH.

In my latitude, about the last of January or first of February.—J. P. H. BROWN.

I allow the bees to control the matter, and don't care how early they begin.—J. E. POND.

I want brood-rearing to be carried on as rapidly as possible after April 1st.—JAMES A. GREEN.

Never until natural warmth and resources prompt it. Let the bees govern it.—JAMES HEDDON.

Let the bees be the judges of this. Keep them supplied with food, and leave it to them.—DADANT & SON.

Keep your bees strong, if possible. See that they have sufficient stores, and leave the brood-rearing to them.—MRS. L. HARRISON.

I am never consulted. I always find plenty of it when I unpack the hives out-doors, and still more in the cellar.—MRS. J. N. HEATER.

March 15th in this locality, since the colonies that begin that early are the ones to gather in the surplus, if any is to be had.—G. L. TINKER.

In this latitude, I prefer not to have them begin until natural pollen is accessible—about the middle of April, on the average.—EUGENE SECOR.

I leave that to the bees. Keep your bees as comfortable as you can, and see that they have plenty of stores, and they will manage the breeding part.—G. W. DEMAREE.

It depends upon location. With me, I like to have them rearing brood in March. Different races differ. I have had Syrians that had brood the entire year.—H. D. CUTTING.

The time I prefer to have the bees begin rearing brood is about the middle of April, if I could have my say; but, as I cannot, I have to let the bees do about as they are a mind to.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

I think some of us mistake when we push brood-rearing in the spring. Here in the South, as "springing" is what takes our honey, I think it best to have but little brood until after the turn of March, as our honey harvest seldom comes before May. Unless we wish increase, I think it is honey wasted to push brood-rearing too early. I think we should make our calculations to push brood-rearing just in time to catch the honey-flow with a big, rousing colony.—MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY.



### Report of the Missouri State Bee-Keepers' Convention.

Written for the American Bee Journal  
BY P. BALDWIN.

The seventh semi-annual convention of the Missouri State Bee-Keepers' Association met in Independence, Mo., on Nov. 17, 1892, during a severe snow-storm, that made it look somewhat discouraging that anything would be accomplished on the first day of its session, but notwithstanding the severity of the weather, some of the members had weathered the storm and made their appearance at the Hall, looking more as if they had come down from the North-land, than as representatives of the golden bee of Italy.

Owing to the small attendance there was no formal session before dinner. The association was called to order by President G. P. Morton, at 1:30 p.m. The storm having ceased, other members and bee-keepers added their presence and strength to the little nucleus which presently became, although not overflowing, a buzzing, busy colony, ready to gather and store away all the surplus knowledge and experience that bee-keepers are always willing to add to the general stores.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

President Morton's address was verbal, and more on the line of work done than mapping out plans for the future. He stated that he had inquired of quite a number of bee-keepers throughout the State with reference to furnishing an exhibit at the World's Fair, but had not found any one who had any honey of any kind and quality suitable for exhibition. This, he thought, was owing to the failure of the honey crop this season.

He also spoke of his trip to Columbia, Mo., in the interests of the association, with reference to establishing an experimental station at the State University; visiting several persons connected with the institution, who expressed a desire

and willingness to do all they could to help the matter, and would endeavor to be represented at the coming meeting of the association.

Several persons at this time paid the admittance fee, and became members.

#### GRADES OF HONEY BY LAW.

The subjects for discussion on the programme were then taken up, the first being, "Should we have grades of honey established by law?" The general expression was that it would not be practicable, on account of so many different persons grading it, and if there was a law to that effect its execution would be difficult.

The meeting now took the form of questions and answers.

#### FOUNDATION IN THE SECTIONS.

Mrs. J. M. Null asked, "How many use full sheets of foundation in section boxes?"

L. W. Baldwin—I use a piece 2x3 inches.

Secretary Baldwin—I use sheets 3x3 inches.

A. A. Baldwin—Where you use only starters in the brood-frames, you should use full sheets above.

J. R. Colville—I use nearly full sheets.

Mrs. Null also asked, "What is your experience in using sections that have been on the hive—in using them again, do the bees go to work as readily as with fresh ones?"

A. A. Baldwin—No. I think the fresh sections preferable.

#### USE OF BEE-HOUSES.

The next on the programme was: "Bee-houses—are they profitable?"

A. A. Baldwin—I suppose the question has reference to house apiaries.

Pres. Morton—I have not had any experience with them.

L. W. Baldwin—It appears that the opinion of bee-keepers is against their use, and had generally been given up, but are being spoken of more, of late.

#### EDUCATING PEOPLE TO BE APIARISTS.

L. W. Baldwin—Is it a good plan to educate people in the bee-business? My experience is that after I had educated them they would come and put down 100 colonies close up to my apiary.

Mrs. J. M. Null—I have not tried very much. There is a class of people in every community that will get everything they can, and we are not obliged to give it, but will try and be neighborly and answer questions.

A. A. Weaver—I have never taken any special pains to educate them.

#### APIARIAN EXHIBITS AT CONVENTIONS.

The question was asked, "Is it advisable to have exhibits in connection with the meetings of the bee-associations?"

L. W. Baldwin—I am much in favor of it. I do not know but that as much knowledge can be gained from such an exhibit as from the discussions.

A. A. Weaver—In all the conventions I have been in, whether agricultural, horticultural, or others, the display was the most interesting part of the meeting to everybody; and not only that, but you get more real information out of the meeting itself.

#### EDUCATING FARMERS ON BEES.

Mrs. Null—In lecturing before the Farmers' Board of Agriculture, what would be the best subject to treat on, to educate the farmers on bees?

Mr. Weaver—There is one point, according to my experience—the most prominent point—educate them and let them alone.

Pres. Morton—I find that horticulturists are willing to be educated on this subject, but it is hard to educate others.

A. A. Baldwin—I think it would be a good plan to get a man, say like Prof. Cook, to write an article to be distributed among the farmers, teaching the benefits of bees in the fertilizing of fruit, as well as to its destruction.

#### SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The second day's first session opened with a clear sky, and quite a number additional bee-keepers well loaded with facts and experiences—harbingers of added sweets.

In the absence of the President, Mr. A. A. Weaver occupied the chair. The session was rather informal, being taken up largely with questions and answers.

#### STORING AND FUMIGATING COMB HONEY.

Mrs. Null asked if there was any one present who had a good method of storing comb honey for keeping?

L. W. Baldwin—I want a dry, warm place, whether in summer or winter, with the temperature at 90°. After comb honey is taken off the hive, in about two weeks it should be fumigated with sulphur to destroy the moth. If it is all taken off the hive at the same time, one fumigation will do, but if taken off at different times, it should be fumigated two or three times.

Mrs. Null—How much sulphur do you use?

Ans.—Five or six pounds to 30,000 or 40,000 pounds of honey.

Ques.—How long do you allow the fumigation to go on?

Ans.—Several hours. I tie my honey in wide frames, and find there is no difficulty in the way of the smoke penetrating it.

Mrs. Null—Would you consider the process of fumigation necessary every year?

Ans.—It would be the safest to do it.

A. A. Baldwin—I did not fumigate it this year. My honey was sold early, and in crating it I did not notice the work of any moth. In the winter months it should be kept from freezing.

#### HOW MOTHS GET INTO THE HIVES.

L. W. Baldwin—Why is it that after taking our comb honey off the hive, in two or three weeks we find moth appearing? How do the eggs get there?

S. A. Utley—I think the moth lay the eggs in the hive.

A. A. Baldwin—During the working season, when the bees are storing surplus, you do not find many moths in the hive.

L. W. Baldwin—I have thought many times whether or not the moths do not lay their eggs on the flowers, and are carried into the hive with the pollen, as the moth hatch from the cells containing pollen.

A. A. Baldwin—The moth-worm cannot fully develop without pollen. When the moth-worm hatches out it feeds on pollen. I am not so sure that they hatch from the pollen, but wherever they do hatch, they go to the pollen to feed.

Mr. Weaver—I have come to the conclusion that there are two distinct variations of moth—one a dark, iron-gray, and the other of lighter color.

#### OVERSTOCKING AND THE LIGHT CROP.

The question was asked, "Is it the opinion of the association that overstocking had anything to do with our light crop this season?"

L. W. Baldwin—I can hardly say that my locality has been overstocked. I have generally kept large apiaries, usually 150 colonies in one apiary. It will pay me better than to have a less number, and hire more men. I cannot say but that I get as good an average as those around me who have only a few colonies.

Mr. Weaver—Generally speaking, those



that keep the most bees get the most honey per colony. I do not think my field is overstocked.

J. H. Jones—We never mention the cause of the failure of the honey season in this part of the country, which was, I think, on account of the heavy rains, immediately followed by dry weather. I do not think my field is overstocked, and I keep 150 colonies in an apiary.

A. A. Baldwin—I think there are certain seasons of the year when the field could be overstocked, but in the main honey-flow it is almost impossible to overstock the field.

#### HOW FAR DO BEES FLY FOR HONEY?

Mrs. Null asked, "In your opinion what distance do bees usually fly in search of honey?"

A. A. Baldwin—That depends upon the lay of the land. On the prairie, two or three miles; if in the timber, it may be  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles. I think two miles about the range of bees in quest of honey. In hunting bees I have lined them three miles, but that was in a scarcity of honey.

R. W. Knox—My experience is similar to Mr. Baldwin's. My impressions are, from observation, that one to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles is their flight; that they do not get outside of two miles.

Mrs. Null—If the honey-producing plants were  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and beyond to three miles, would the distance make any material difference in the honey crops?

L. W. Baldwin—Yes, to a considerable extent, although in 1868, in the time of white clover, I was three miles from home, and noticed Italian bees on the clover, mine being the only ones in that section of country.

Secretary Baldwin—I should not look for much of a honey crop if the beginning of the honey-producing plants were  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from my apiary.

J. H. Jones—Just after the clover season I moved from my apiary 50 colonies three miles from home, and only about a quart of bees returned. My home apiary is two miles from basswood, and when it yields abundantly I get basswood honey, but from the apiary located right among the basswood, I get basswood honey every year.

S. A. Utley—I would say that apiaries should be three miles apart; still I hardly think that bees go two miles. I should think that  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles would cover their flight.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention met again at 1:30 p.m. After the Treasurer's report and

election of officers, the programme was taken up with this subject:

#### PROFITABLE APIARIES DURING A DROUTH.

"How to make an apiary profitable during a drouth."

L. W. Baldwin—It would have been better to have said "the best management during a dry season." I have not seen a season in 25 years when I could get a crop of honey in a drouth.

J. H. Jones—In a dry season that I remember, I secured a large crop of honey.

Secretary Baldwin—In a severe drouth the colony does not get sufficient honey and pollen to keep up breeding, and should be stimulated by feeding to keep up its strength.

#### MOST RELIABLE HONEY-PLANTS.

Ques.—"Which are our most reliable honey-plants?"

Mr. Weaver—About all the honey I get is from white clover and Spanish-needle.

Mrs. Null—Our surplus is from white clover, basswood, Spanish-needle and heart's-ease. For breeding purposes, fruit-bloom is good, if the weather is so that the bees can get out. Also locust yields some honey.

Mr. Weaver—There is located in range of my apiary several large orchards, and last year, if the colonies were strong, they worked on the bloom to some extent.

G. P. Morton—Through the central part of the State the white clover is first in importance. If we had linden it would be equally as good a source as the white clover. In the fall we have Spanish-needle, heart's-ease, etc.

A. A. Baldwin—This year buck-bush yielded honey sufficiently to keep the colonies storing a little, and if there was enough of it, it would be a good plant for surplus.

Mrs. Milton Cone—One year our crop was entirely from Spanish-needle, but the next year it yielded nothing.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The evening session was called to order at 7 o'clock.

#### MAKING EXHIBITS AT MEETINGS.

The first question discussed was "The advisability of making exhibits at our meetings, and devoting the night sessions to them."

J. H. Jones—I am in favor of making exhibits.

A. A. Baldwin—I think one object of exhibits is to educate the people. When they have looked them over, they spread abroad their knowledge of them.

G. P. Morton—We have been running this association for three years, and it is very hard to keep up the interest, and I am willing to engraft such exhibition on the work, and see if we cannot create a greater interest among bee-keepers.

L. W. Baldwin—I am much in favor of it; but how can we get the money to carry it on with? If each member would do a little, it would amount to quite a sum.

It was decided to make such an exhibit of anything connected with the business.

### THIRD DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The third day's first session convened at 9 a.m. After the reception of several members, the deferred work was taken up on the

#### WORLD'S FAIR EXHIBIT.

C. L. Buckmaster asked if the State Board of Commissioners were disposed to do anything for the bee-keepers?

G. P. Morton stated that the Board said substantially that all we can do for you is this: You collect your goods and ship them to Chicago, and we will pay the shipping expenses, and will provide space and cases for them to occupy; but will not guarantee that we can give you a superintendent there, neither can we issue a warrant for any sum of money, and let your Treasurer dispose of it.

Some of the members were disposed to drop the matter.

L. W. Baldwin—I do not think it would be well to drop it so suddenly. I think we had better wait and try to get the State to help us. I do not see how we can get it in any shape at this meeting, as it would be impossible to get any honey this year for an exhibit. If we had \$500 or a \$1,000, and could appoint a committee to take charge of it, we might make something out of it.

A motion was carried, that the procuring and arrangement of the exhibit be left in the hands of the Executive Committee.

#### APICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

The subject of establishing an experimental station at the State University was laid before the meeting, and Mr. Buckmaster, representing the interests of the University, read an essay on the

subject. [This essay will appear later.—Ed.]

A discussion of the question was brought to a close by a resolution introduced by Mrs. Null, "That it is the sense of this association that we receive recognition for apiculture at the experiment station, and that a committee of two be appointed to meet with the curators of the University at their next meeting, and present the subject."

The Secretary stated that Mr. Thomas V. Cornell, a visiting bee-keeper of Center Point, Iowa, was present, and moved that he be made an honorary member of the association, which was agreed to.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention met at 1:30 o'clock. The statistics taken at the meeting were as follows:

### TABLE OF STATISTICS.

Names.	Spring No. Colls.	Fall No. Colls.	Comb Hon. No. Libs.	Ext. Hon. No. Libs.	Wax. No. Libs.
L. W. Baldwin & Son	765	820	12,000	2,000	100
Null & Anderson	500	650	1,500	6,000	100
J. E. Jones	120	150	1,600	150	100
S. A. Utley	83	100	1,200	200	25
Jas. H. Jones	250	300	3,500	1,000	200
G. P. Morton	20	31	100	600	10
J. R. Chiles	37	55	200	120	25
J. H. Hock	53	64	400	120	25
P. Baldwin	135	150	2,500	—	50
Total	1,963	2,320	23,000	11,000	635

The committee on resolutions was called on, and reported the following:

*Resolved*, That we extend our sympathy to Bro. Quigley, of the *Progressive Bee-Keeper*, in his recent loss by fire.

*Resolved*, That this association cannot in any way approve of the practice of feeding sugar syrup to bees for the purpose of obtaining surplus, and placing the same on the market as pure honey.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the association be extended to C. C. Clemons for his kindness in having the programme of the meeting printed, and sending them to the members.

Owing to the absurd, and it might be said laughable reports of our meetings by the press, a motion prevailed that an Assistant Secretary be appointed at the commencement of each meeting, whose duty shall be to prepare a report of each session for the press.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent, as is usually the case, in an off-hand interchange of ideas relative to apiculture.

On account of a misunderstanding in advertising the time of the meeting, the attendance was not large, yet it was evident that those who had taken the time and means to meet with us, returned to their homes satisfied that, all things considered, the meeting was interesting and profitable.

The association thought best, by changing the Constitution, to hold only one meeting a year instead of two, as heretofore; the next meeting to be held in the fall of 1893, at Pyrtel Springs, Mo.

P. BALDWIN, Sec.



### **"Italians vs. Native Bees"— Clipping Queens' Wings.**

*Written for the American Bee Journal*  
BY S. E. MILLER.

Every little while some fellow pops up and sings the praises of the blacks, or as some choose to call them the "native bees," and I might say I cannot see why the blacks are any more native than the Italians, as both were originally brought to America.

This time it is Mr. C. J. Robinson (see page 698)—a man of more than half a century's experience, and in all that time he has not been able to see the superior qualities of the Italians. Why,

it takes the average bee-keeper of this age less than a year to see the difference, and discard the blacks. I have no objections to any one preferring the blacks, but why preach that they are superior to the Italians, or even equal, when the great majority are on the side of the Italians?

May I ask Mr. Robinson, why, if the blacks are equal to the Italians, will bee-keepers pay all the way from 70 cents to \$10, and even more, for Italian queens, while they can get black queens for the asking, or at the most a very small consideration? Mr. R. may say it is only a notion, or a mania, that people have for Italian bees that causes them to purchase queens at high prices; but to this I would say I hardly think the average bee-keeper would sacrifice dollars and cents, merely for the sake of fashion!

Again, why have the so-called superior strains of black bees, that have been advertised in the various bee-papers, all gone to the wall? Are not the so-called black bees often in reality hybrids? We have a few colonies that some might call blacks, but they are in reality hybrids, and are, as a rule, good workers; but when it comes to the Simon-pure blacks, I want 'tother fellow to keep them.

Why don't some fellow claim that the hazel-splitter that runs wild in the woods eleven months in the year, is fed corn sparingly for one month, and then slaughtered, is as good as the improved strains of swine—such as Poland China, Berkshire, etc.? For the farmer who allows his hogs to roam in the woods most of the time, no doubt the former race is the one best suited to his needs, as they will stand more exposure and neglect. The same with horses, cattle and poultry. Who'll be the next to bring black bees to the front?

#### **CLIPPING THE WINGS OF QUEENS.**

"Malta" asks (page 698): "Is it advisable as regards economy of labor and anxiety on the part of the bee-keeper?"

I should say it is! M.'s apprehensions that the swarm will become scattered when they find the queen is not with them, do not realize in fact; and if the queen is caged while the swarm is out, the old hive removed and a new hive put in its place, and the queen allowed to run in with the swarm when they return, I know of no way of swarming or hiving that takes less time and labor, and I have never noticed that swarms

thus hived did not work as well as those hived by any other plan.

So far as the prevention of swarming is concerned, I see no difference between a clipped queen and one with wings, and did not think that any one advocated clipping for the prevention of swarming. It simply prevents the swarm from flying away, provided the apiarist is not present.

In regard to the practice eventually resulting in the deformity of the wings of queens or workers, I would say that the practice of purchasing queens frequently for improving one's strain of bees, will overcome this imaginary evil, as none of the queen-breeders send out clipped queens, and this is of itself a safe-guard against the probability of such a misfortune.

The bee-keeper who will not instill new blood into his apiary by purchasing a select breeding queen from some reliable breeder occasionally, ought to have a deformed strain of bees.

Bluffton, Mo.

### Wong Lung's Honey-Flies, or a Celestial Apiarist's "Ups and Downs" in Bee-Culture.

*Written for the American Bee Journal*  
BY WONG LUNG.

*Mister Newsplaper-Man*: — Me long time thinkee send you of my sugar-flies — Melican man call him "bee," eh?

Well, in first place, you sabbe I come from China where I was born, and work in lice fields, and thlee year washee clothes in San Francisco. Bimeby we lalse legittables close by near Oakland. One day heep lot sugar-fly come my house, and go in tea-box. My plartner, Jim, he no likee—too muchee bite. I likee sugar-fly heep muchee—him sugar-fly belly nice, heep sweet.

I fixee tea-box in sun and watchee honey-fly go and come. Thlee week him heep fly out—me thinkee allee my sugar-fly go away. What for? Me no sabbe. Me belly good to him. No hurtee him.

Melican man come and hesay, "Lung, your bees swarm belly good. Bimeby you heep big bee-man; all same one mandarin. You catch box when bee go on tlee, and put him in box, and you have two swarms."

So me heep glad. Me get belly rich. Plenty sugar-fly—heep sugar—muchee money! Allee samee me go back blimeby to China, heep big man. Me

all-a-samee big Mogul—me thlink you call him "big-bug"—heep "swell."

Sugar-fly catchee on chelly tlee and all quiet. I takee tea-box and call my plartner—him samee Jim. I say, "Jim, you hold box, so." I show him—hold him over his head so that sugar-fly fall into him box when I shakee tlee.

Jim, he belly good man. He my wife's cousin—my wife in China. Jim hold box way up high. Pletty soon I shake tlee and honey-fly fall down—whew! him go more on Jim than in blox. Jim he jump heep high, and yell—yes, he yell like h—I, all samee Melican man say, you sabbe. That man he lun, and honey-fly get on horsee. Horsee klick likee blazes, and tear allee over glarden. Lose too muchee money—onion allee spoiled. Cabbage bloke down. Garlic trampee on—belly bad, belly bad muss. Horsee muchee scared.

Melican man catchee horsee. Me give him four bittee. Jim come back and me say, "Jim, you heep no good, let blox fall. Horsee lun way and bloke too muchee glarden sass."

Jim, he say, "Me no care. Sugar-fly heep bite. Him sting me evlywhere."

All-a-samee me get sugar-fly in blox and have two blox flies.

Two more months me tell Jim me likee sugar. Jim say, "All light, you catchee him."

Me say, no sabbe muchee. Me tly tomorrow.

To-morrow one Ilishman come long—him Ilishman own heep land. Him too smart. He say, "John, what you do to your bees?"

Me no likee Ilishman, and me say, "None your blizness." But Ilishman no go way. He laughee me, and he say, "John, you bee bite heep muchee. You no sabbe fix him. You like me show you?"

Me say, "All lite."

So, Mr. Mulphley take blox into my bedroom (he say Dr. Piller—one big honey-fly man—talkee allee samee belly good place to fix bee, cause makee bed heep warm).

Well, Mr. Mulphley blake board off blox and heep fly come out and bluzz evlywhere. Him get into me shoes and up my—what you call him—pants? Him also get heep into bed. Mr. Mulphley take four or five pieces of sugar and put on pan; then fix blox allee lite and put him outside, near the other blox.

Mr. Mulphley belly good. Me give him lot onlons and one blook, me thinkee come ffrom Mr. Loot, about chewing tobacco.



Pletty soon Mr. Mulphley go way, and me takee sugar and eat him, tlee, four pounds. Too muchee sugar no good! Blime by me sick—sick stomachee.

Jim come home, find me on floor, hap die. He heep scared. He catchee gin and give me.

Me say, "No, Jim; me hap die first. Me no more dlinkee whiskey. Mr. Loot (him belly good man) he say "whiskey belly bad for man's belly. Mr. Loot heep sabbe."

Jim say, "Wha' for you care Mr. Loot and Dr. Pillar. They heep sabbe laise bee, but no sabbe you belly. Me no want you hap die. Me like you to-molow plow corn. So you dlnk gin!"

I close me eyes, open my mouth, and say, "Here's to your health, Mr. Loot. Me heep likee get well quicke."

You bet me get well quicke. Mr. Mulphley say I catchee collickee—eat heep sugar.

Night come, Jim he go bed first. Sloon me thlinkee him clazy. Me go bed, too. Soon me thlinkee me in Mellican man's hot place. Me get bite in feet, in arms, on head—heep lot evly-where. Jim, he just clazy—him sugar-fly in bed bitee him likee—what you say for belly good cussword? No sleep this night. Jim he say he no more stay with me if me keep sugar-fly.

Me tell him "All lite," me no care; me likee sugar-fly allee samee him my child. Me keep him, and one, two year me have heep lot."

Jim go way next day, and me lun lanch allee samee Lambler—keep batchelor's hall and heep bee.

Sunday me no work on lanch, so me go Slunday-school, and talk teacher 'bout sugar-fly. Him teacher one lady, and say he leed Mr. Loot's "A B C Book on Sugar-Fly." Me likee hear him teachee, talk heep lot. Him tell me 'bout God, but me forget; him takee 'bout sugar-fly, me no forget.

Me go home and fix my bee for winter quarters—me think that's what Mr. Loot call him. Mr. Mulphley say Mr. Loot no sabbe—California heep warm—fly no hap die. Mr. Loot lite, Mr. Mulphley lite. How me know? Me flix fly likee this: Mr. Loot long, and me flix him allee samee he say my sugar-fly die; Mr. Mulphley long, and me follow him, fly die too. So me flix him one blox likee Mr. Mulphley say. You sabbe?

Winter go way me look at sugar-fly. One hap die—him allee samee flixed like Mr. Loot say; the other belly fine—him heep stlong, and sting me one eye—me

one eye—me no care muchee, but heep glad him live.

Next time me tell you what me do next year.

What you thlinkee me as a sugar-fly-keeper? You likee hear flom me—me give you lot news. Me likee to hear 'bout Dr. Pillar, Mr. Doonothing, Mr. Loot, Plofessor Clook, Mr. Gleen, Dr. Tlinker, and Hutchlinson, Slecor, Heddlon, Dlibbern, Flance, Lallabee, Dlem-alee, and other big sugar-fly writers. Me hopee they will be glad to hear flom me, and enjoy me experience as I enjoy theirs.

WONG LUNG.

San Francisco, California.

S. P.—*Mr. Newspaper-Man*:—Me hopee you will excuse me glamar—as me only plicked it up in Slunday-school where me also learned to lead and write. If me makee successe of the blizness here, me shall start a Chinese sugar-fly journal in Canton, slometime.

W. L.

## Results of the Season—Deceived on Winter Stores.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY JOSEPH DUNBARR.

My colonies of bees have cast but few swarms, not averaging over one-fourth their number each year, but they have increased from year to year until last fall, at which time I had 45 colonies. Two were Italians and one Carniolan, and if there is any I could not see the variation from the black bee. About one-half were hybrids, the rest blacks.

The honey was above the average in quality last year, according to the general report. They gave me between 1,500 and 2,000 lbs. of surplus, but it was all dark except what was gathered from smart-weed, and it was mixed with the honey-dew. As dark as it was, many of my customers admired its taste. I sold all but 50 pounds, which I have yet.

I will now tell how I lost 35 colonies, and if any wish a similar experience, they can follow my example.

After the fall flow of nectar last year (1891), I took the upper set of frames out of the upper stories (my hives are the Simplicity pattern). As I emptied each story, and decided from the appearance the amount left as to its being sufficient to winter on, I rested easy until a few days before the first cold spell. I commenced placing warm covers

over the brood-frames, and found out the eye could deceive the judgment.

The lower frames, the top of which was filled with honey and capped over, had all been consumed, and the bees literally destitute. I bought some sugar, procured quart fruit-cans, made syrup, and filled the cans and placed them over the brood-frames. Cold weather soon set in, and but little of the surplus were taken. Bees were in a starving condition, that is, some of the colonies. I then made taffy and gave that to some of them; this proved a failure. Then I punched holes with an awl in the bottom of the cans, filled them, and placed them over the brood-frames again, which proved a success, and drowned the bees by the wholesale.

I lost colony after colony, until I had only 10 left—2 Italians, one Carniolan (or said to be), 3 blacks, and 4 hybrids. These have averaged 50 pounds of surplus honey per colony. They increased to 15 colonies, and are all in good condition. Each hive is very heavy this fall—I judged from weight instead of sight. My loss has been quite an item. Experience teaches a dear school, but fools will learn there.

Brown Co., Ills.

### Opportunities in Apiculture— Wheat and Honey.

Written for the American Bee Journal  
BY A. O. CALHOUN.

I have 60 colonies of bees in good condition for the winter, on the summer stands. The honey crop here was a failure this year. I could sell hundreds of pounds more, here at home, than I will have to spare. I have been handling bees for about six years, and like the business.

What a grand opportunity is afforded in the field of apiculture, for obeying the first command of God to the human family, namely, multiply, replenish and subdue the earth; or, that we may grasp the thought more readily, we will take it in its natural order. Subdue and replenish the earth, that the fruits thereof may be multiplied to the human family. Now, it is indisputable that in proportion as man has obeyed this command, he has enjoyed the necessities, comforts and luxuries of life.

There is possibly the necessities of life in the wild grains, fruits and vegetables of earth, but where man has

subdued these and replenished or replaced them with better grades (and these are to be had by a little thoughtful care and culture), the fruits thereof have been multiplied, and comforts are his that the heathen are strangers to. To such an extent is this command being obeyed in this our day, that we are enjoying even the luxuries of life.

God has promised that if we are obedient we shall eat the "finest of the wheat;" not only the finest wheat, but the *finest of the wheat*, and we see this promise fulfilled in the fact that we no longer eat for bread a mixture of brand, midlings, germs, and the walls or cells of the grain in which the flour, like honey in the comb, is stowed away; but under the present system of making flour, all is eliminated except the finest of the wheat.

Observation will show that a grain of wheat and a hive with bees are much alike in many respects. In the one we have the bran around the grain; in the other we have the hive. A grain of wheat is divided into cells; likewise we have the honey-comb, and as we find the germ, midlings and finest of the flour stored away in the cells of a grain of wheat, even so we find the brood, bee-bread, poor honey, and the finest of the honey in the cells of the honey-comb.

How grateful I am that the promise holds good not only in the case of wheat, but in apiculture also; hence, we are eating the finest of the honey out of pound sections, no longer being satisfied with a mixture of rotten gums, brood, bee-bread, old combs and honey taken from the sanctuary of the floral priesthood, according to the process taught us by Bruin; thanks be to God, christianity, education, and such men as our beloved Father Langstroth!

Victor, Mo., Nov. 17, 1892.

### The World's Fair Women

"Souvenir" is the daintiest and prettiest book issued in connection with the World's Fair. It is by Josephine D. Hill—a noted society lady of the West—and contains superb full-page portraits and sketches of 31 of the World's Fair women and wives of prominent officials connected with the great Fair. It is printed on enameled paper, with half-tone engravings, bound in leatherette. We will send it postpaid for \$1.00, or give it for two new subscribers to the BEE JOURNAL for a year, at \$1.00 each. Every woman will want a copy of this book, we feel sure.



Do not write anything for publication on the same sheet of paper with business matters, unless it can be torn apart without interfering with either part of the letter.

### Honey of Fine Quality, Etc.

I have 22 colonies of bees in eight and ten frames, plain Simplicity hives. I did not get a big crop this year, but it was of very fine quality of comb honey. I work for comb honey alone. I have given particular attention to my bees for two years, although I have had a few bees for 18 or 20 years, and I have found a great many bee-trees in past years. I have learned a great amount from the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL in the last 12 months. J. E. ENYART.

McFalls, Mo., Dec. 17, 1892.

### Feeding Sugar Syrup.

On page 796, Mr. Reeves, of Carmi, Ills., in speaking of honey from sugar syrup, says: "It was simply syrup without the taste of honey to it." I was sorry to see that, for though possibly in part true, it was misleading. In case an inferior article of sugar is fed, the flavor of the sugar kills the honey-flavor, and the honey would be called "sugar syrup;" but if pure cane-sugar was used, then the honey would not be even thought of as syrup, but as honey. I took some such honey to the recent Lansing convention of the Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Association, and two of the best apiarists and judges of honey in the country pronounced it honey, and of excellent reputation.

I say fearlessly, and positively, that honey from pure cane-sugar syrup cannot be told from honey. The bees change it, and add so many of the leading characteristics of all other honey, that no one will think it is aught but honey. See my article on this subject to appear in *Gleanings* for Jan. 1, 1893.

A. J. COOK.

Agricultural College, Mich.

[As the matter of feeding sugar syrup for the production of so-called "sugar-

honey" has been pretty thoroughly ventilated in both the *Review* and *Gleanings* recently, it is hardly worth while to go over the same ground in the BEE JOURNAL, especially as there are now so many other topics of greater importance to bee-keepers that should receive attention. Nearly all agree that even if it might prove profitable to thus feed sugar, it would almost certainly be too dangerous and risky a thing to do for the good of the pursuit of bee-keeping. There is no need of trying to walk safely over quicksands, when we know there is a pathway where safety is unquestioned.

Two of the more important questions just now "before the house" are, "Adulteration of Honey" and "Government Aid to Apiculture." Others could be named, but Prof. Cook has said that these two are the questions, so let us devote our thought and efforts to them. See editorial on page 849.—ED.]

### Report for the Season of 1892.

I commenced the season of 1892 with 38 good, strong colonies of bees, and secured 150 pounds of comb honey and 100 pounds of extracted. I had about 20 swarms, but doubled back and did not increase any. I enter the winter of 1892-93 with 34 good, strong colonies, having doubled up to that number; all with natural stores enough, I think, to carry them to April.

The little honey I did get was principally from pea-vine clover, and bass-wood. The fall bloom was immense, but no honey in it. The weather was everything that could be desired, but all to no purpose so far as bee-keeping was concerned.

I read the BEE JOURNAL each week, and derive a great deal of information and pleasure out of it. I wish it and its editor a long and prosperous life.

L. G. REED.

Kent, O., Dec. 19, 1892.

### Value of Apiarian Knowledge.

I certainly cannot do without the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, as I found out by sad experience that no one can keep bees, and make it pay, without first having a thorough knowledge of the business.



I commenced keeping bees away back in the '60's. I invested \$100 in the business to start with; and right here let me say that I think it is a mistake in putting so much money into the business until we have some experience in the business. I had no knowledge of bee-keeping, either from books or experience. What was the result? I lost every bee the next winter after purchasing them. This "wound up" the bee-business with me until five years ago, when I became interested in it again. I began this time with one colony, and invested the value of another one in bee books and papers. I was, and am, determined to win this time.

As a result, I have made it pay reasonably well, although we have had a succession of poor seasons. Last season was called the poorest one ever known here, and yet from 20 colonies, spring count, I sold \$73 worth of comb honey, and yet other bee-keepers that had three times as many bees as I had, did not get any honey. They let their bees take their own course; I profited by what I had read and learned. I read with interest every page of the valuable AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL as it comes weekly, and shall continue to do so as long as I keep bees.

J. F. MERRILL.

Corinth, Vt., Dec. 10, 1892.

#### Some Interesting Suggestions.

Query 846, page 694, I think needs at least one more suggestion as to how the bee-papers may be improved. For years I have been waiting for some one who understands the business, to be engaged to "review" each number, and the comments published in the next issue, if possible. At one time I expected Dr. Miller would do this when he started "Stray Straws," but it has not fully satisfied me yet. As the *Review* has truly said, some people can tell more than they know, and others cannot tell as much as they know. I am one of the latter, but I will "review" a little of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for Dec. 1st, so you will know what I am asking for some one to do. For instance:

Page 719 says the first snow was on Nov. 25, in Chicago. First snow here, Oct. 3rd; four inches; good sleighing now. I would like to be at the North American Convention, but cannot.

Page 720—Dark blue wax is mentioned. Tell Dadants not to make any foundation out of it.

Page 721—I cannot understand Prof. A. J. Cook, but presume he means the

sample was honey-dew with sugar syrup and other stuff added.

"California Bee-Keeping" — About half way down the column says, "An industry which yields \$375,000 per annum without any outlay." Now I say this is very misleading to beginners, or others that have not begun. Then at the end it should be said, "Put the label over the cover of each jar, so that it could not be opened without breaking the label, because if not so placed, they could be emptied and refilled with a mixture."

Page 723—The Michigan Bee-Keepers' Association has prepared good subjects for discussion, which I will watch for.

J. R. BELLAMY.

Black Bank, Ont.

[Well done, friend B. Your suggestions are good, and no doubt will be taken advantage of as soon as possible. You might do some of it yourself, if you wish, as you have shown very clearly that you can if you try. We are always glad to receive suggestions, looking toward the improvement of the BEE JOURNAL, but we may not in every case deem the suggestions good ones, or be able to carry them out.—Ed.]

#### Only Person that Took Any Honey.

I have devoted the past year to bee-keeping. At first I had box-hives and black bees, and did not succeed at all. I then secured the eight-frame dovetailed hives, and also the Italian bees. I have 15 colonies, all doing nicely. Mine are the only Italian bees in the neighborhood, consequently I am the only person that took honey this season.

I fed them about 200 pounds of sugar syrup. I have no bee-house, nor have I ever put them into the cellar. I made small houses of weather-boarding, about 6 inches larger than the hives, all around, and made the tops separately, and filled the space between the hive and house with straw; I like the plan, and think it will work finely. The weather is never very severe here, anyway.

Carrie Aaron's way of bee-keeping, as described on page 688, is quite novel. Success to her. I enjoy reading the BEE JOURNAL very much.

JAKE EVERMAN.

North Middleton, Ky., Dec. 15, 1892.

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